

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 26, 2002. Claims 1-26 and 29-37 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 10, 14, 20, 26, 31-33, and 35 being in independent form. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present response.

Claims 1-26 and 29-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,977,978 to Carey et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,253 to Nahaboo et al. Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a method for interfacing with a three-dimensional object that is displayed, the method comprising: defining a three-dimensional object as a component, the component being defined by a three-dimensional content language that includes three-dimensional content and interfacing content, the interfacing content being capable of interfacing with the three-dimensional content without external interfacing scripting; and displaying a component interface, the component interface being interactive with the three-dimensional content such that an application developer is capable of interfacing with the three-dimensional object through the component interface.

Carey et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to three-dimensional scenes or movies generated by a user of a computer system by interactively selecting a stage from among several available three-dimensional stages, each of which has at least one predetermined feature such as a pedestal, lighting characteristics, a camera path, or the like. The user may import predefined three-dimensional objects into the selected stage and

move and resize the objects to compose a scene. Once composed, the scene is rendered to generate an image or a series of successive scenes is rendered to generate an animated movie.

Nahaboo et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to an interactive interface description tool that uses an interpreted language in which both the data and the programs have a similar representation. This tool also has an interpreter that is embedded with the interface description program. This interpreter consists of a mixture of C language and interpreted language instructions and uses a library of interactive command objects (widgets) and a library of graphical objects.

The Office Action cites col. 3, lns. 40-43 of Carey et al. as allegedly disclosing "... defining a three-dimensional object as a component with a component interface ... containing an intelligent content" (see Office Action, p. 3, lns. 1-4). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As understood by Applicants, the cited section of Carey et al. discloses only that each three-dimensional stage is defined such that its features are tailored to complement each other, to allow each stage to represent a different atmosphere (see Carey et al., col. 3, lns. 39-42). The stages correspond to predefined environments into which models can be imported and later showcased for review and presentation, and may include preset colors, textures, lighting, and camera paths (see id., col. 2, lns. 39-54).

It is respectfully submitted that neither the cited section nor the remainder of Carey et al. disclose or suggest defining a three-dimensional object as a component, the component being defined by a three-dimensional content language that includes three-dimensional content and interfacing content, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action further notes that Carey et al. does not disclose or suggest interfacing with three-dimensional content and interfacing content, without external interfacing scripting, and apparently cites Nahaboo et al. as disclosing this element (see Office Action, p. 3, lns. 8-10). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As understood by Applicants, Nahaboo et al. is directed to an interface development tool that can be used regardless of application (see Nahaboo et al., col. 1, lns. 29-34). The interactive description interface is associated with a library (X/MOTIF) of interactive command objects (widgets) and a graphical object (GO) toolbox including a library of graphical objects (see id., col. 3, lns. 52-61). The dynamic behavior of the interactive objects (widgets) is defined by a set of callback procedures written in the "WOOL" language (see id., col. 2, lns. 10-21). The interactive assembly geometry specification of the objects is translated into a file that is used by an application and that contains the user-interface format in the form of a WOOL language program (see id.).

The section of Nahaboo et al. cited in the Office Action (see Office Action, p. 3, lns. 8-10) relates to the use of a LISP-type interpreted language and the embedding of the interpreter (WOOL) with the application's interface description program and with the application produced (see Nahaboo et al., col. 1, lns. 35-39).

As understood by Applicants, however, neither the X/MOTIF library nor the GO toolbox of Nahaboo et al. correspond or relate to a three-dimensional object defined as a component, the component being defined by a three-dimensional content language that includes three-dimensional content and interfacing content, as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, as understood by Applicants, in Nahaboo et al., each widget that is

created includes a script (see id., col. 10, lns. 55-67), and to define at least some desired reactions by the interface, editing of or addition to the widget script by the user is apparently required (see id., col. 11, ln. 52 to col. 12, ln. 59; cols. 13-15).

In contrast, as recited in independent claim 1, the interfacing content is capable of interfacing with the three-dimensional content without external interfacing scripting.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that neither Carey et al. nor Nahaboo et al., alone or in combination, suggest or disclose defining a three-dimensional object as a component, the component being defined by a three-dimensional content language that includes three-dimensional content and interfacing content, the interfacing content being capable of interfacing with the three-dimensional content without external interfacing scripting, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. Independent claims 10, 14, 20, 26, 31-33, and 35 are believed to be patentable over the cited art for at least similar reasons.

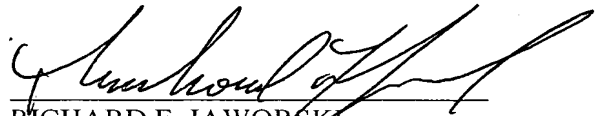
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this response and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard F. Jaworski", written over a horizontal line.

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